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The 'Wave' Breaks

Another discordant note has been struck within the Communist ranks indicating that the system isn't the panacea its most zealous backers have claimed for it.

Who would have thought that the latest grumbling would have been uttered by Fidel Castro's brash Minister of Industry, Major Ernesto Che Guevara?

He is quoted in an interview published by a Cairo weekly magazine as admitting that "grave mistakes" have been made in Cuba's economic development, and furthermore, that there are gaps in Marxist doctrine.

The Cuban leader is reported to have told a group of Arab leftists that he is afraid the failures in Communist countries "would lead to a return to capitalism."

According to the Arab magazine he advised developing nations to take a hard look at the successes of the West and the failures of the East.

Throughout the Communist world there are internal economic and social strains, some of which have become generally revealed while others can be only surmised.

In agriculture, for example, the Communist system, everywhere, has been no match for Western methods in food production. Russia has just been forced into sweeping alterations of agricultural production.

The demand for consumer goods is a pressing one but Red regimes have

been unable to come anywhere near meeting it.

Guevara is reported to have admitted as much when he said: "We started building factories and committed grave mistakes because we had failed to conduct adequate studies and draw up sound plans."

There is too much evidence of the failure of the Communist system to doubt it can avoid a drastic reshuffle of its present methods. Almost two years ago in an address in San Francisco, Allen W. Dulles, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency indicated that Communism was losing ground in the struggle with the West. He said:

"I believe the Communist position is becoming more and more vulnerable. I am not speaking now so much in a military sense, though certainly, over-all, the free world has a military superiority. I am speaking rather of the manifold vulnerabilities and weaknesses that the Communist system is showing."

Let no one for a moment be lulled into any degree of complacency that the Red threat is waning. It isn't and is unlikely to for a long time to come because social and economic systems of its dimension and depth do not topple quickly.

However, the fact is that Communism is not the "wave-of-the-future," as its leaders so vociferously once proclaimed it to be. It is admittedly making a very poor run against free enterprise.